

**Sports Advisory Board
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, Connecticut
Main Conference Room
April 14, 2009
9:30 a.m.**

**Draft Pending Approval
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jim Abromaitis, Capitol City Economic Development Authority
Jack McDonald for Val Belmonte, Quinnipiac University
Lynn Carlotto, Arena at Harbor Yard
Dana Ciaifi, Pilot Pen Tennis
Wayne Dean for Thomas Beckett, Yale University
Robert Doherty, Special Olympics CT
Charlie Dowd, Dodd Stadium – Connecticut Defenders
Nathan Grube, Travelers Championship
Marie Jannace, Lime Rock Park
Curt Jensen, Greater Hartford CVB
Michael Mehigen, Office of Policy and Management
Pat Murphy for Gene Doris, Fairfield University
Marie O’Brien, Connecticut Development Authority
Chuck Steedman, Northland AEG
Sara Willcox, Pilot Pen Tennis
John Willi, New Britain Rock Cats

Excused: Scott Ciecko, State Department of Higher Education
Ron Drapeau, Connecticut State Golf Association
Jill Ferraiolo, Connecticut State University System
Jeffrey Hathaway, University of Connecticut
Rick Hazelton, Trinity College
C.J. Jones, Central Connecticut State University
Don MacKenzie, Boats Incorporated
Larry McHugh, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
Patricia Meiser, University of Hartford
Ann Miron, Sacred Heart University
William Mudano, Connecticut Sports Management Group, Inc.
Michael Murtha, Athletic Department Mohegan Sun
Joe Oros, Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development
Gloria Ragosta, Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Michael Roth, Wesleyan University
Michael Savage, CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference
Jeff Vose, MetroHartford Alliance

Guests/Staff Bill Humphreys, BikeGuys; Leigh Johnson (Recording Secretary), Commission on Culture & Tourism; Karen Senich, Commission on Culture & Tourism

1) **Call to Order**

Chairman Abromaitis called the Sports Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion made by Nathan Grube, second by Wayne Dean the minutes of February 5, 2009 were approved as circulated. (Y-16, N-0)

3) **Chairman's Report – Jim Abromaitis Reporting**

Chairman Abromaitis stated the focus of today's meeting will be to review the amended draft report to the legislature and determine which attachments are to be included.

The Chairman noted that since the creation of the Sports Advisory Board, members of the board have worked diligently in fulfilling the Board's role and purpose set forth by the legislature. The level of communication has increased between all entities around the table; and there has been continual interaction and communication between members outside of the meeting setting; along with, collaborative efforts amongst the entities [through partnerships] to capitalize on all sporting event opportunities considering Connecticut as a destination.

There is consensus of the Board's three subcommittees on the importance and need of creating a centralized catalog of sports venues within a one stop entity along with utilizing the National Association of Sports Commissions (NASC) model to analyze the feasibility of all future sports/sporting events seeking state support and determining its economic and benefit to the state.

4) **Legislative Update – Karen Senich Reporting**

The last time the SAB met, the Governor submitted her proposed budget which included the elimination of the Commission and its merger into the Department of Economic & Community Development and proposed language eliminating [this Board] Boards and Commissions. The proposed bill eliminating Boards and Commissions died in committee. The legislature submitted their proposed budget which keeps the Commission intact however, reducing the Commission's budget substantially.

5) **Review of Draft Report**

Members reviewed the draft amended report and the floor was open for discussion. Roundtable discussion ensued.

Highlights of Discussion

It will be the responsibility of the Sports Advisory Board to make a case to the legislature that there is an economic benefit to have the state's commitment in the marketing of sporting events, and the recruitment/retention of sporting events to the state.

- a) Submit the amended report to the committee of cognizance before the end of the legislative session.
- b) Chairs of the subcommittees were given the opportunity to redefine their subcommittee reports and/or provide additional information for inclusion to the legislative report.
- c) Provide summarization of other states models and positive examples (leveraging public funding with private/corporate funding) as background information.
- d) Organize an informational session for key legislators and individuals from the industry whereby; the industry can demonstrate their commitment and communicate the importance of a centralized entity or Sports Commission.
- e) Nathan Grube offered to host an event/forum in conjunction with the Travelers Championship. Chairman Abromaitis asked Marie O'Brien to facilitate an ad-hoc committee to create such an

- event to include a presentation to the legislature at which time the legislative report will be presented.
- f) The general consensus of the Board was in favor of such an event/forum.
 - g) A recommendation was made to approach a Sports Management School (University of New Haven – Professor Gilfried) to solicit assistance from the school’s interns to research and compile information necessary to append to the report, if necessary.
- 6) **Adjournment**
A motion to adjourn was made and moved. All in favor.
- 7) **Next Scheduled Meeting**
No meeting date was scheduled at this time.

Pending Items

- 1. Chairman Abromaitis requested from the “non-collegiate sports” subcommittee to supply him with reference on the economic impact of minor league sports teams, Pilot Pen Tennis and cycling to attach or utilize excerpts for inclusion into the legislative report.
- 2. Chairman Abromaitis and Karen Senich to work on the amended report.
- 3. Karen Senich will contact the chairs of Commerce regarding the forum.
- 4. Marie O’Brien to chair the ad-hoc committee, organize the event, coordinate individuals to participate in the forum, and the intended audience for the forum. Board members interested in serving on the ad-hoc committee were asked to contact Marie O’Brien. Date and location of event to be determined.

Miscellaneous

The PGA Tournament will be held during the week of June 22, 2009.